

THE STORY
of
OLD VERMONT

In Pictures



NATIONAL LIFE

FOREWORD

Vermont's early years were times of adventure, hardship, triumph. Those times are portrayed here in illustrations of Abnaki Indians who used the wilderness as a hunting ground, settlers who cleared land to homestead, colonists who fought to win independence from Great Britain, and the republic which was the first to join the union after the original thirteen colonies became the United States of America.

The 44 historical drawings in this booklet are reproductions from originals in The Heritage Series, a collection of 150 works commissioned for a major advertising campaign by National Life

in the 1930s. The collection was restored to celebrate the Vermont Statehood Bicentennial in 1991. Each drawing illustrates a specific historical event, custom or practice of life and a people exhibiting the strength, industry and innovation that have come to characterize Vermont.

The black and white charcoal and crayon drawings are the work of the late Roy F. Heinrich and the late Herbert Morton Stoops, both noted American illustrators. The artists were painstaking in their research to accurately depict costumes, characters and points of historical background. The collection is a priceless record of Vermont's people to the year 1850, when National Life sold its first policy.



The Squakheag blockhouse, or Fort Dummer as it became known, built in 1724, is generally considered to have been the first permanent white settlement in what is now Vermont. Garrisoned with both settlers and Indians, it was an outpost for protection and to watch for enemies coming toward the frontier.



The Indians often marked trails by tying saplings to the ground, bent in the direction to be traveled. In the course of time, these saplings grew into large trees, which marked the trail for generations to come.



The first settlers in Vermont, as well as those in the other colonial states, established their homes through practices of thrift, self-reliance and persistence.



Colonel and Mrs. Samuel Robinson, founders of Bennington, Vermont, erected their cabin in 1761. While Mr. Robinson was away in London acting as an agent for the New Hampshire Grants (now Vermont), Mrs. Robinson, alone in the cabin, chased wolves from the door by waving glowing brands.



When disputes arose over land titles, a beech whip was found to argue more convincingly than a colonial governor's seal. So when holders of questionable land grants tried to seize Vermont lands, the offenders were "shown the beech seal" in a way which would make the most lasting impression.



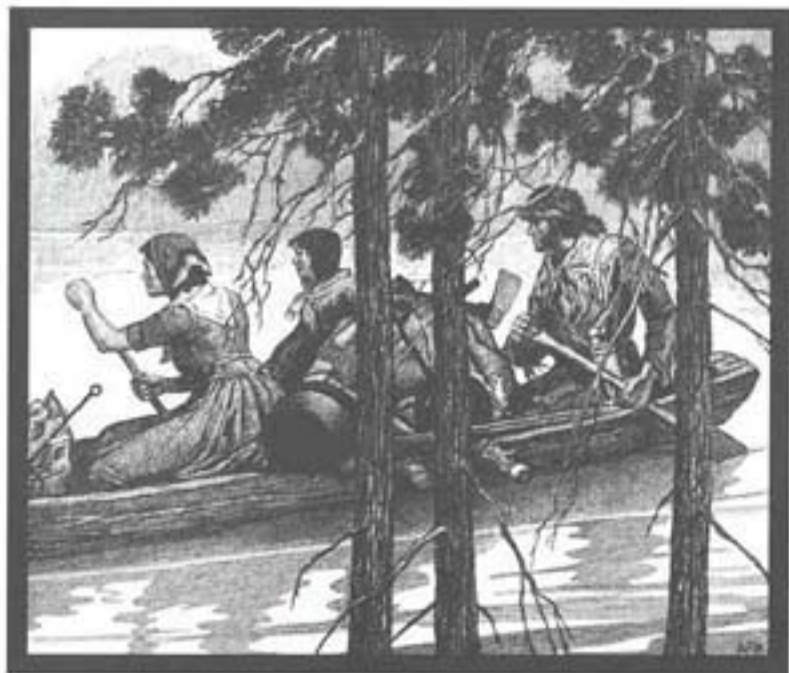
They gave him the *High Chair Treatment* as a warning. Home protection was an ideal that burned fiercely in the hearts of early Vermonters. Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys were organized, not to fight the British as is generally thought, but to repel holders of questionable land grants who threatened to seize established homes.



Pioneers learned from the Indians that it was wise to store food in the forest when food was plentiful. An emergency supply was often stored in a roughly constructed cache, out of the reach of prowling animals.



On the summit of Mt. Pisgah, Vermont, the Reverend Samuel Peters, in 1763, christened the state "Vert Mont, in token that her hills shall be green and always endure."



Hartland, Vermont, was settled by the Lull family. In the spring of 1763, family members traveled up the Connecticut River from Dummerston in a hollowed-out log canoe.

